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ABSTRACT

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THIS DOCUMENT: As the number of software programs grows--and current estimates put the number at around 30,000--identifying a particular program can be a problem. R.R. Bowker Company, the administrator of the U.S. ISBN agency, has announced one solution to the identity problem--it will assign International Standard Book Number (ISBN) prefixes to hundreds of microcomputer software producers. Since many traditional booksellers are now also carrying software as part of their inventory, the ISBN system will permit them to use the same system for both books and programs. The ISBN system is currently the primary identification method used by more than 20,000 U.S. publishers and by libraries, schools, and bookstores. An ISBN number consists of ten digits in four groups linked by hyphens. The first part is called the country identifier. It is followed by a publishers prefix, which indicates the specific publisher, and a series of digits identifying a particular book or product. The final digit is a check digit, which guards against a computer accepting an invalid number. (Author)

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